



SPARK GAP

Vol. 33, Issue 11, November 2016 MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-three years

On our MARC:

Get set and move. MARC is on the move. Just a reminder that we will be holding our November meeting at our new place located at the Johnson County REMC building, 750 International Dr. Franklin. Meeting time is the same!

I would also like to thanks to Chris, KQ9Y and Mike (monkey Mike), KC9WLR for all the work that they have spent either in the new radio room or on the tower. They have spent many hours getting the antenna's up and radio's working so we could run Goblin Patrol from out new room.

Thanks to the members that took part in the annual Goblin Patrol Halloween night. It wasn't as cold as last year or rainy. Our bridges were covered and the Sheriff department was happy. I haven't heard if we had any incidents during the night so I am guessing that all went smooth.

I would like to thank those who stopped by and helped Andrew and the Boy Scouts with JOTA after our Oct meeting. When I stopped by, there were still two Boy Scouts making contacts. It was a little cold out there so I did not stay long.

Please mark your calendar for December 17th. This is our annual holiday meeting. It will be a pitch in breakfast.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving. The Zuiderdam is calling.

Jacki KI6QOG
President





Bithdays for November:

WS9H-Rhonda Curtis

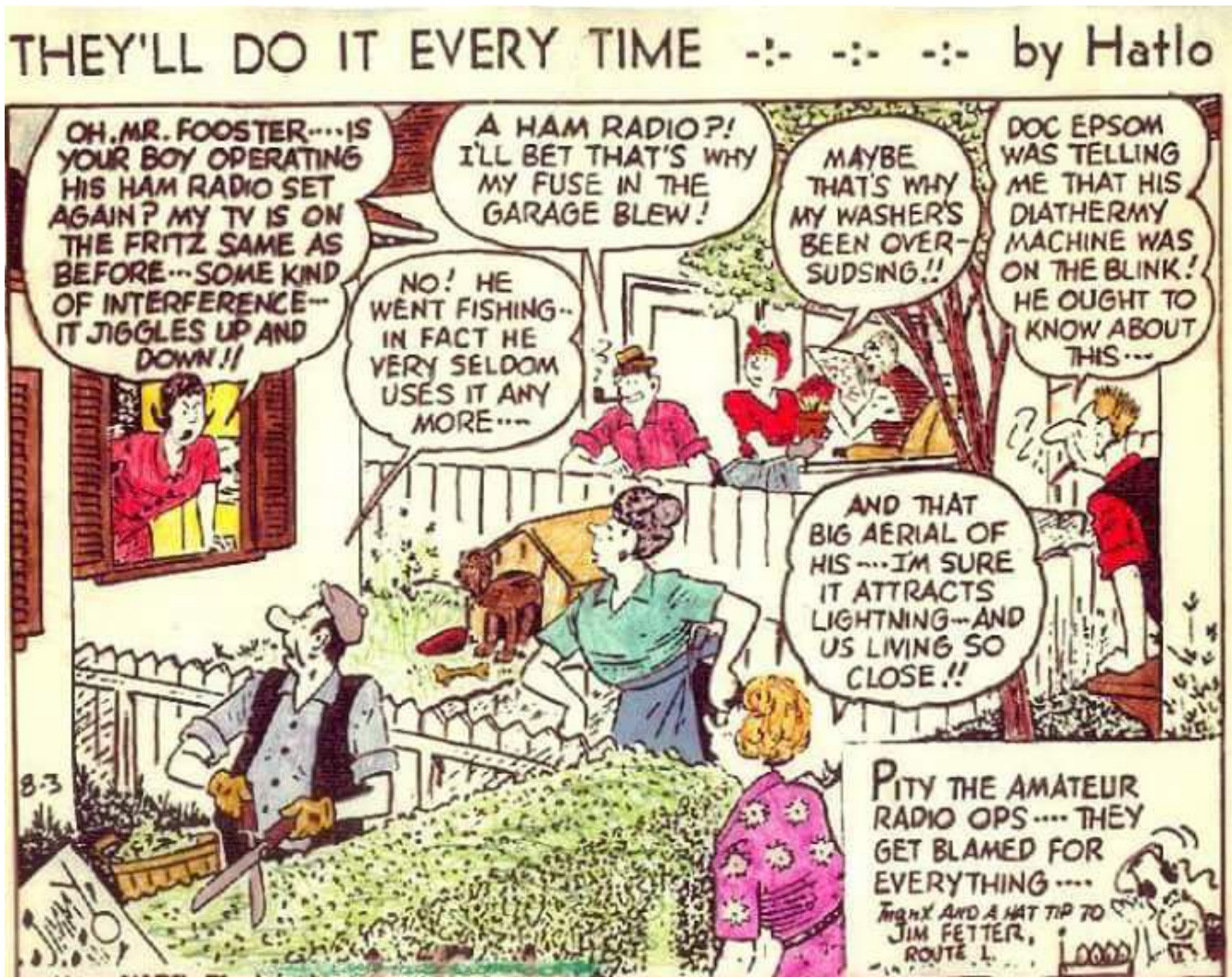
W9TEJ-Ron Koons

WB9GCV-Jeff James

K9ICP-Bruce Tisdale

W9YD-John Wampner

KD9GWC-Brent Sullivan



Subject: ARRL Calls on Members to Press for US Senate Passage of Amateur Radio Parity Act

ARRL once again is calling on amateur radio operators to urge their US Senators to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act ([H.R. 1301](#)) when it comes up in the Senate during the “lame duck” session. The House of Representatives approved the bill in September, but if the Senate does not follow suit during this session, the bill will die, and the entire process will have to be repeated next session. The Senate will adjourn in mid December and return in January under the newly elected Senate. So the clock is ticking!! We need to press our Senators to action before they recess in December.

The short version and step by step are below or the detailed story is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-calls-on-members-to-press-for-us-senate-passage-of-amateur-radio-parity-act>

The quick action step by step guide:

1. Go to <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/>
2. Enter your zip code on right side of page and click ‘GO’
3. This takes you to the directory of your legislators. In this case click on either Senator Coats or Senator Donnelly. Click on either one of their names.
4. This directs you to a page with links to their email, twitter and other links.
5. To the right side of the Send an Email area - click on the “SUBMIT “.
6. This takes you to a form letter that will automatically fill in the areas outlined with { } brackets.
7. Complete the fields with your name, email and address. IF you have an amateur radio license, include your call sign after your last name. When complete click the submit button.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



Generally speaking

Generally speaking the General License Class headed up by Bruce Tisdale-K9ICP is going well. Seven club members have attended the first two sessions being held in the training room at White River Township Fire station 51. The next 90 minute session is scheduled for 6:30pm November 21st. Bruce recommends everyone read and bring the current copy of the General Class instruction book. Any published General Class manual will work. The class discussion covers those areas of concern and explores technical and rules information needed to pass the test.

Each session includes an on-line sample test from the AA9PW.com website. This helps identify areas for further discussion from those questions answered incorrectly. It's the same process available to anyone wishing to test their General Class License knowledge.

Chris Frederick-KQ9Y and Jack Parker-W8ISH have volunteered to monitor each class and help provide further clarification to the many questions during the class. There is ample seating if you would like to get a headstart on your next upgrade in Amateur Radio.

-w8ish



The class and Bruce – K9ICP



Chris - KC9YIA and Mike - KC9WLR



Cy - N9CHY



Chris – KQ9Y gives instruction



The map displays the Johnson County REMC location in Franklin, Missouri. The red pin is located at the intersection of International Dr and E 300 N. The map includes labels for various streets and businesses, such as Earlywood Dr, E 300 N, N Norton St, International Dr, Brangin Rd, Fletcher Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, NAPA Auto Parts - Hdw Parts Express, Farm Credit Mid-America, and the Franklin Police Department.

Any questions contact our Public Information Team at PIO@midstatehams.org



GOBLIN PATROL.

Thanks to everyone who worked this years goblin patrol.

We had operators at 4 overpasses and 3 operators manning net control at the new radio room. We started at 1830 and ran until 2200. Were thanked the JCS Department for helping them again this year. Also this was the first official use of the new radio room I would like to thank the many club members who have spent many hours getting it operational.

Thanks 73,
Dave KB9LOT



Celebrating your club's Elmers might encourage others

Sam, W5KF, recently sent me a link to the Elmers' page on the Norman, OK South Canadian Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) website. Not only is it a listing of the club members who have stepped forward to Elmer new members, but also provides ways to honor current and past Elmers. This is from the SCARS newsletter:

"Elmer List on the W5NOR.org website

"This week we talk about a brand new feature on the W5NOR web site. In the amateur radio community, an experienced amateur radio operator who mentors a new or prospective ham is commonly called an "Elmer". In our hobby, that seems to be a great way for knowledge to be transferred.

"Yes, we all have taken an FCC test to receive our license, however that's only the starting point. Remember that person that helped you set up your first radio, or gave you the courage to press the PTT button, or answered endless questions about a radio, or an antenna? That's the kind of thing we're talking about.

"Thanks to a great suggestion from Gary Skaggs WB5ULK [not sure it was my idea. – Editor], we've created the SCARS Elmer Page, located at <http://w5nor.org/elmers>, for us to celebrate Elmers; past, present, and future. We provide a place for Elmers to list their specialty, and contact information, which allows new hams to find someone they can ask questions of.

"Since this is a new section of the web site, this list is rather short. If you're willing to help others on a given topic, send a message to n5hzz@arrl.net and you will be added to the list. Right now we need lots of different categories, like antennas, radio setup, HT programming, contesting, satellite operation, high power operation, test gear, building your own gear, repairing radios, APRS, D-Star, DMR, CW, logging, etc. oh well, you get the idea.

"You don't need a PhD to be listed here. You just need a willingness to help others in a given area. It's OK to be a new ham, and be listed here. You may have just struggled through your first space contact, but you'll have infinitely more knowledge than the person who's been a ham for 40 years, and has never tried that portion of the hobby.

"Also, there is a link to the "ARRL Elmer Award" page of the American Radio Relay League's web site. Here, you can enter your favorite Elmer's name and callsign. The ARRL will print a nice certificate, and mail it to the address you enter. Yes, for FREE! This certificate can either be mailed to your favorite Elmer, or you can mail it to yourself so you can present it to them personally. Feel free to order an Elmer certificate, and present it to your Elmer at an upcoming SCARS meeting. Talk with one of the officers before the meeting to get your place on the agenda. What a great way to recognize these people for their extra efforts.

"Finally, we've got a place to list YOUR favorite Elmer in our SCARS Elmer Hall-of-Fame. This is the place to memorialize your Elmer, whether they are SCARS members, Silent Keys, or not. I've already

listed a few Elmers on the list from my own travels through the hobby. We'd love to list the people that help us all succeed.

"So, please help make this page useful, visit the SCARS Elmer page at: <http://w5nor.org/elmers> and be listed as an Elmer, and list your favorite Elmers."

I think this is a wonderful idea, and I hope that you will consider doing something similar in your club. A little recognition could go a long way, and we need all the Elmers we can muster. And, if you're already doing this, please send me a link. I'll add that link to my website, KB6NU.Com.

When he's not Elmering new hams, you'll find Dan building kits and working CW on the HF bands. He is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

SKYWARN Recognition Day Webinar

The 18th SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will be held December 3, 2016 from 0000UTC to 2400UTC. SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission, the protection of life and property. Amateur radio operators comprise a large percentage of the SKYWARN volunteers across the country. The Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency management if normal communications become inoperative. During the SKYWARN Special Event operators will visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

This year, in the week before SRD 2016, there will be a webinar that covers the basics of the event, how to participate, and a few changes that are in store for 2016. The webinar will be November 29 at 8pm ET. Registration for the webinar can be found -

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7546142194155183873>

As with all ARRL webinars it will be recorded and posted to the ARRL YouTube channel afterward.



RFinder and BrandMeister Team-Up for Daily Feed of Digital Repeaters

11/14/2016 ...ARRL News

ARRL partner **RFinder** — the creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters worldwide — has collaborated with the BrandMeister network of Amateur Radio digital voice systems to include a daily data feed of digital repeaters. Digital repeaters are now categorized in RFinder by network, and RFinder's Android and iOS apps can provide information on BrandMeister networked repeaters worldwide. The daily data feed from BrandMeister includes both repeaters and talk groups. RFinder also now supports automated repeater coverage maps for the newly-released BrandMeister dashboard, active once repeaters sysops enter their repeater information on BrandMeister. RFinder generates its coverage maps using CloudRF technology, developed by Alex Farrant, M6ZUJ.

RFinder's growing worldwide repeater database now provides its subscribers with access to more than 60,000 repeater listings in over 175 countries. RFinder is integrated with *EchoLink* on Android and iPhone to offer one-click connection to repeaters right from the directory.

RFinder is ARRL's preferred online resource of repeater frequencies and will be the source of listings for the 2017-2018 edition of the *ARRL Repeater Directory* (coming spring 2017). The *ARRL Repeater Directory* includes digital repeaters using a variety of technologies and protocols.

An RFinder subscription is \$9.99 per year. Subscribe to RFinder from your iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or from your Android smartphone or tablet. Users of other devices will find a link at the bottom of the RFinder subscription page.



UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

11/12/2016 – Indiana State Convention

(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)

Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

**11/19/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**12/17/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting and Christmas Pitch-in Breakfast
at the New Location, Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**01/21/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**02/18/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**03/18/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**04/15/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**05/20/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**05/19, 20 & 21/2017 – Dayton HAMVENTION new location
Green County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 120 Fairground Rd. Xenia, OH 45385**

06/10/2017 – White River Fire Department Strawberry Festival

**06/17/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

06/24/2017 – ARRL Field Day, location TBA

**07/15/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeaters:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale -- K9ICP
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Marlys Barr – KD9BHM
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

Please see Marlys Barr KD9BHM at the meeting Saturday if you would like to become a member of our club.

